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Sullivan Creek Project Negotiation Team Tenth Mediation Session

On September 2-3, 2009, the tenth mediated session of the settlement negotiation team for the surrender of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license for the Sullivan Creek Hydroelectric Project was held in Newport, Washington. The negotiation team, which brings together representatives from multiple stakeholder interests in the outcome of the surrender process, has worked hard over the last year to discuss and consider all of these multiple interests. Their objective throughout the mediation process has been to jointly develop a settlement agreement for the FERC license surrender that takes all of the interests into consideration and provides benefits to the system and the community.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is requiring the Pend Oreille PUD to surrender its FERC license because power is no longer being generated at the Sullivan Dam facilities. Once the license is abandoned, FERC is no longer the federal managing agency. Since these facilities are on National Forest System land, the Forest Service becomes the federal managing agency and any remaining facilities are required by federal law to obtain a Special Use Authorization that meets current environmental standards.

During this mediation session, the negotiation team finalized the technical provisions of the Agreement in Principle (AIP). All that remains is the final editing of the AIP and signatures. The Team's goal is to file the AIP with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) by the first week of October.

There will be a public meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2009, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Ione Community Center. At the meeting, the negotiation team will present a summary of the AIP and its elements. If the AIP has been finalized and submitted to FERC by the date of the public meeting, copies will be available at the public meeting.

After the AIP is finalized, the Team will continue to develop the final settlement agreement over the next 4-5 months.

The next mediation session is scheduled for October 7-8, 2009 at the Ione Community Center in Ione, Washington. The public is welcome to attend the mediation sessions if they are willing to sign the Observer Agreement. Anyone wishing to attend should notify Gail Brooks at brooks@ecr.gov or (520) 901-8532 so that she can plan the room logistics. A copy of the Observer Agreement is available on the project website and upon request.

Information on the project is available at the project's website: <http://sullivancreek.ecr.gov>.